

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1520

January 21, 2018

SUMMARY OF BILL: Expands the definition of ‘firefighter’ to include a person trained in firefighting or the prevention of fires who is employed by a private entity for the purpose of entitling such firefighters, after the successful completion of annual in-service training, to the \$600 pay supplement offered by the Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education Commission.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$384,000

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-24-202(a), the \$600 pay supplement is currently only offered to professional firefighters who work for a unit of government, such as a public fire department.
- This legislation will increase the number of individuals who are entitled to the \$600 pay supplement.
- The State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) recognizes public fire departments, but does not recognize private fire departments.
- According to information provided by the SFMO, 11 private fire departments have submitted applications to the SFMO’s office seeking recognition by the SFMO.
- Of the 11 private fire departments which submitted applications, 4 provided staffing information with an average of 44 firefighters per department.
- The SFMO estimates that there are an additional 21 known private fire departments which work for private corporations such as Jack Daniel’s Distillery, Nissan, and Volkswagen.
- Despite the previous information received from the SFMO, the exact number of private fire departments throughout Tennessee, as well as the exact number of private firefighters in Tennessee, is unknown. However, it is reasonable that at least 32 private fire departments exist statewide, and the number of firefighters for each private fire department average at least 25.
- The total number of private firefighters that would become eligible to collect the \$600 pay supplement under the provisions of this legislation is estimated to exceed 800 per year (32 minimum departments x 25 minimum firefighters).

- At least 80 percent, or a minimum of 640 ($800 \times 80.0\%$) private firefighters will complete the required annual in-service training and receive the \$600 pay supplement each year.
- An additional appropriation from the state General Fund will be required to fund the additional pay supplements.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures from the General Fund is estimated to exceed \$384,000 (640 minimum firefighters \times \$600 pay supplement).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jdb